

Collection: Passaic Board of Trade and  
Passaic Area Chamber of Commerce

Accession Number: 2001.4

### Finding Aid

Date Range: 1870-1980

Bulk Date: 1960-1980

Creator: Passaic Board of Trade and Passaic Area Chamber of Commerce

Containers: 4 flip top boxes, (7) 15 3/4"x13"x10" storage boxes

Storage Location: PCHS Library and Archives

Aid Created By: Karen M. Vick

### **Biographical Information:**

In 1885, Mr. A. Swan Brown believing there was a need for a local association to manage affairs of and study other needs of the city of Passaic created the Citizens Improvement Association. He served as its first president. In 1891 the name was changed to the Passaic Board of Trade. Mr. Brown was succeeded by William H. Gillen. Thomas A. R. Goodlatte, Moses E. Worthen, William C. Kimball, John T. Granger, Frank Hughes, Bird W. Spencer, D. W. Mahony followed as presidents.

In 1902 it was re-organized by the election of Judge W. W. Watson, president; Mr. Alfred Speer, treasurer, and Mr. Mahony, secretary.

As a result of the continued growth of Passaic, it was considered necessary to again re-organize on February 16, 1906, when Victor L. Mason, was elected president; James C. Shearman, treasurer, and Mr. Mahony, secretary.

The Board worked to establish the public library; Shade Tree Commission; Arbor Day; Manual Training School; Passaic river purification and improving navigation.

At the beginning of 1921, it was the general opinion of many members that the old board of trade should be re-organized not only in name, but in its constitution and by-laws. At a meeting of May 4, 1921, the directors resolved to submit the question to the members, who at a meeting held June 23, voted in favor of re-organization, which was then renamed the Passaic Chamber of Commerce. Richard Morrell was elected president; Thomas K. Brown, Jr., secretary, and George Young, Jr., treasurer.

Unfortunately all the minutes, manuscripts and data of all kinds of the Citizens' Improvement Association have been destroyed, and the minutes previous to 1909 of the Board of Trade, together with manuscripts and all data of that body cannot be found.

In 1980, the Clifton Chamber of Commerce merged with the Passaic Area Chamber of Commerce and as a result, the organization was renamed to the Clifton-Passaic Regional Chamber of Commerce to encompass both territories. This move also allowed the then Clifton Chamber of Commerce to absorb the history of the Passaic Area Chamber, whose history dates back to 1913.

In 1986, the Clifton-Passaic Area Chamber of Commerce moved its headquarters from its Main Avenue office to its newly purchased office condo located at the Notchview Office Park, 1033 Rt. 46 East, Suite A-103 in Clifton. This 2000 square foot office became the central meeting site for vital economic development meetings for the City of Clifton and Passaic and home to Board of Director Meetings, numerous committee meetings, and various networking events.

In 1991, the Clifton-Passaic Regional Chamber of Commerce merged with the Passaic Valley Chamber of Commerce by a unanimous vote from the "P.V. Chamber," which represented Totowa, Little Falls, and Woodland Park (then West Paterson). This move prompted another name change for the organization to the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce in order to include the vast area the chamber now covered, including surrounding cities in towns in neighboring counties.

### **Scope and Content:**

Complete records of Passaic Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meetings from 1960-1979. The records from 1907 to 1959 are not complete – several years are missing. Annual meetings of the Chamber are complete from 1964 to 1980. Other materials include photographs, newspaper clippings, various department and committee reports and minutes. Not all items are related to Chamber activities and meetings. Annual meeting agendas and notes are complete from 1964 to 1980, New Teachers Luncheon records from 1965 to 1979. There are some unrelated items, like photographs taken around the Passaic area, advertisements, maps, and publications of "The Church Tablet" from Old First Church, Passaic.

### **Series:**

The collection consists of large binders, booklets and manila folders for photographs and smaller items. It is essentially chronological, although there are gaps here and there were no records exist for some years.